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Susana Martinez
Governor
Demesia Padilla, CPA
Cabinet Secretary

9th Judicial District
Matthew Chandler
District Attorney

Two More Suspects in Driver's License Ring Arrested in Portales

PORTALES – Ninth Judicial District Attorney Matthew Chandler announced today that two additional suspects in an illegal foreign national driver's license ring have been arrested by local law enforcement.

On Saturday, Veronica Diaz turned herself in to law enforcement in Portales and was booked in the Roosevelt County Detention Center. Her bond is currently set at \$10,000 cash only.

On Sunday, Jose-Luis Tirado also turned himself in to law enforcement in Portales and was booked in the Roosevelt County Detention Center. His bond is also currently set at \$10,000 cash only.

As of the date of this media release, four suspects in the scheme have been arrested and booked into the Roosevelt County Detention Center. Five additional suspects remain at large.

- Esteban Lopez-Mendieta current whereabouts are still under investigation.
- Brenda Vicuna has been located in Lubbock, Texas, and she is working closely with law enforcement to turn herself in within the next several days.
- Luis Raul Collazo-Medrano, along with his wife (Olivia Esther-Campos) and daughter (Viridiana Campos) remain at-large.

Luis Raul Collazo-Medrano and eight other accomplices, including his wife and daughter, have been charged with conspiracy, forgery and other felony charges for fraudulently setting up residential addresses in Clovis and Portales and falsifying other documents to obtain New Mexico driver's licenses for foreign nationals living outside the state.

Collazo-Medrano, an illegal foreign national from Mexico, and his family are accused of running a \$30,000 per month operation that included human traffickers, mail collectors, and a public notary signing false affidavits to illegally obtain New Mexico driver's licenses for foreign

nationals from Mexico, El Salvador, Brazil, Guatemala, Uruguay and Honduras **who are** now suspected of living in Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and Illinois.

Although investigators identified 54 cases for prosecution purposes, the ring is accused of fraudulently obtaining hundreds of New Mexico driver's licenses for illegal foreign nationals living outside the State.

If anyone has information about these individuals (other than Vicuna), they should immediately call the Ninth Judicial District Attorney's Office at (575) 769-2246 or notify any law enforcement agency.

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